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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

REPLY TO ATTN OF: AFCCS

SUBJECT: SAMOS Program

TO: Lt General B. A. Schriever
Commander
Air Research and Development Command
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Bennie:

I appreciate the timely suggestions which you outlined in your letter of 19 September 1960 on the SAMOS. The importance of developing a reconnaissance satellite system at the earliest practicable date is certainly of utmost importance to the United States as well as the Free World.

Your views on a SAMOS Advisory Committee are well taken and you will be pleased to know that the Secretary is establishing a Satellite Reconnaissance Technical Advisory Group. This group will be made up of a Permanent Standing Committee of four experts who will be well known and compatible with several interested agencies. It is the plan to have Dr. Killian, Dr. Baker and similarly qualified experts as members of this group which is in line with your thinking. Others may participate as occasions arise to assist in resolving specific problems that may be brought before this committee.

I certainly agree with you that we must avoid any delay in the launching schedule barring some completely unexpected turn of events. As you know, on 25 August 1960 the President approved the scope of the SAMOS program covered in the 11 August Development Plan and specifically approved the first launch. This is the best assurance we can get.

In regard to the information program for the SAMOS project, the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) approved and published the SAMOS Information Plan on 22 September 1960. Although we have not received the approved guidelines that are to be used in connection with this plan, we have been advised informally that they will be strongly keyed to the R&D theme. We understand also that the Department of Defense is taking what action it can to overcome the "Spy in the Sky" label that has been pinned on the program; however, our information people are not optimistic in this regard, and believe that we must realistically be prepared for continued media use of this term.

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I am sure you will be pleased to know Alex Wolf, my Under Secretary, has been in close contact with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs and other officials in the Department of Defense and the Executive Department and has presented a position for the Air Force which I think generally is compatible with your views on the subject.

Sincerely

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